

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 and 19-22 are currently pending in the present application. All pending claims are subject to restriction as indicated in the Office Action.

#### **The Restriction Requirement:**

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires the election of a single invention from among the following two allegedly separate and distinct inventions:

- **Group I** (claims 1-16, 19, and 20-22), drawn to a process for preparing an ionic compound comprising at least one cation containing a quaternary  $sp^2$ -hybridized nitrogen atom; and
- **Group II** (claim 17), drawn a halide-free and monoalkylsulfate-free salt of formula I.

#### **Provisional Election with Traverse:**

In the event the Examiner maintains the Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action despite consideration of the traversal remarks which follow, Applicants provisionally elect, **with traverse**, the claims of **Group I** (claims 1-16, 19 and 20-22) for prosecution on the merits. Additionally, with respect to the requirement for the election of a single disclosed species, Applicants provisionally elect, **with traverse**, and solely for the purpose of initial searching, 1-methyl-3-ethyl-imidazolium sulfate, as exemplified in Example 3 on page 16, lines 1-19, of the present specification. Finally, in an effort to provide as complete a response as possible, Applicants believe that claims 1-16, 19 and 20-22 read on the elected species.

#### **Traversal of the Requirement:**

Applicants respectfully **traverse** the Examiner's Requirement for Restriction on the ground that simultaneous examination of Groups I and II, as set forth in the Office Action, would present no undue search burden on the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that Restriction is improper and request simultaneous examination of all claims on the merits.

Payment in the amount of \$130.00 is submitted concurrently herewith to cover the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) for a one-month extension of time. If any additional fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13111-00046-US, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: November 17, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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